

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, July 14, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Don Woods called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Board: Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Ed Marchion, Jen Win-Johnson, Don Woods, Bill DeBlasio, Beth Manke, Richard Khentigan

Board Members Absent:

Staff: Superintendent William DeMaio

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF June 9, 2015

Richard Khentigan made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the June 9, 2015 meeting. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Rose Lyons of 46 Elton Drive – Second request for the pathway to be cleaned up before the Extravaganza. She came across old pictures and suggestions from the May 2008 neighborhood clean-up and shared these suggestions with the Board members, ie: add garbage barrels on the pathway, add pea gravel to the entrance of pathway to fill in the pits and holes, the overgrown brush and grass is making the pathway narrow and needs to be cut back and continued police presence because a lot of teenagers hang around that area. Rose would just like more attention paid to the pathway since it is frequently used in the summer, she would like it cleaned up and kept clean throughout the year. In regards to the Community signs on the Town Green and at CVS that were mentioned at the June meeting, Don said there will be some temporary repairs done to the signs now, during the winter will be a more appropriate time for the parks staff to rebuild them. They will also look at the Beech tree to see what they can do with it.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

Don Woods asked in regards to the monthly report, parks and grounds division, who paid for the renovation of the Volunteer Little League Field for the upcoming District playoff games. Bill DeMaio said the Town Manager approved the overtime. A new 6 ft fence had to be installed because the rules changed with a new regulation field distance from 220 to 225 ft. Bill DeBlasio said our field is grandfathered in we just needed a higher fence for the District Playoff game that will be held on our field later this month. All the banners have been changed from wood to a roll up/roll out banner. The District playoff game will be televised on CPTV, July 29th – Aug 1st. The renovation is near completion, just need home plate and new tarps. Bill DeBlasio would like to save any profits made from this to put towards an outdoor batting cage.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Extravaganza:

The Board members have signed up for the ticket booth. Two Board members and one staff will be in the booth. The weather looks good for the weekend.

Golf Tournament:

The golf tournaments total revenue of \$13,323, the expenses were \$7,157 bringing in a total profit of \$6,166. May try to raise money another way next year host a different activity possibly a 5K race or obstacle course race give the golf tournament a break for a little while.

VII. NEW BUSINESS**New Superintendent:**

Bill DeMaio is the new Superintendent for the Parks and Recreation Department. He is very excited to be back in Newington. Prior to coming to Newington he worked for the New Britain Parks and Recreation Department for 30 years. He is originally from Newington and grew up using the Parks and Rec. services as a child. He is very passionate about his job and has a lot of enthusiasm to bring to this department. He has met with all of the Parks and Recreation Department staff individually and as a group. Bill has a lot of new fresh ideas to promote and market the Newington Parks and Recreation Department.

Churchhill Park Design:

There will be an Informational Public Forum on July 29th at 6 pm at the Town Hall to discuss the future of Churchill Park. The plan is to redesign the park and make it more desirable to the community. Residents are invited to this public forum to give their ideas and opinions on what they would like to see in the park. The design components to be discussed for the park include: splash pad, aquatic facility, softball field, tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, parking, nature trail and much more.

Concert Update:

The concerts are going well. There was about 500 in attendance for the first concert of the summer. The Mandell family donates \$1,500.00 per year for the concerts.

MCC Discussion:

Bill DeMaio is in favor of a two gym community center. The extra room is needed to accommodate all the programs the parks and rec. department offer.

Extras:

New slogan for Newington Parks and Recreation Department: Discover the “New” in Newington Parks and Rec. The meeting for August 2015 is cancelled and the next meeting will be Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30 pm. Eileen is concerned about the flowers being stolen from the cemetery plots. Don said it is common not much to prevent it happening. Also Eileen is asking about the Turf Field generating any income and if so how much. Nutmeg games have rented it but Bill did not know how much they were getting. Eileen wants to make sure money is being put aside for future re-carpeting. Bill DeBlasio needs porto-potties for the upcoming District playoff game. Bill DeMaio will make sure that 3 regular and one handicap porto pot will be brought over.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Richard Khentigan to adjourn. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm with an 8-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay